



Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety

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Senate Judiciary Committee
Room 110, Farnum Building
125 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Good Morning Chairman Jones and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marie Hansen and I represent Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety (MAP). I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB4093 and HB4191.

MAP strongly supports keeping .08 the BAC standard for the State of Michigan; the commercial driving BAC at .04; and keeping zero tolerance at .02 BAC. Research is clear that lowering the BAC to .08 has reduced fatalities due to alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and saved lives.

The information below was taken from a presentation "Determining the Feasibility, Benefits, and Acceptability of Lowering the BAC Standard in the U.S." given by David W. Eby, Lidia P. Kostyniuk, Lisa J. Molnar from the UM Transportation Research Institute Behavioral Sciences Group on December 14, 2012 and summarizes some research that demonstrated what happened when states began lowering BAC limits to .08 in the early 1990s:

- An analysis of the first 5 states to make this change (Utah, Oregon, Maine, California, Vermont) found a reduction in alcohol impaired driving fatalities of 16-18%.
- Later studies of lowering the BAC to 0.08% found alcohol impaired driving fatalities were reduced by 5-16%.

Research clearly demonstrates that setting lower BAC limits is protective. From research that's been done it's safe to assume that if the BAC level is raised we can expect an increased rate of harmful outcomes such as alcohol impaired driving fatalities. For more information you can go to: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/mvoi/alcohol-impaired-driving/BAC-laws.html>.

I am not aware of any research studies that support increasing levels to higher than .08. However, there is a growing body of research that indicates lowering BAC levels will save more lives. Again, the information below is from the UM Transportation Research Institute Behavioral Sciences Group Presentation from December 14, 2012:

- A review of 5 studies of jurisdictions that lowered BAC from 0.08% to 0.05% showed (Fell and Voas, 2006):
 - 12% reduction in the incidence of alcohol impaired driving;
 - 9% reduction in alcohol impaired driving crashes;
 - 8-14% reduction in alcohol impaired driving serious injury crashes;
 - 18% reduction in alcohol impaired driving fatal crashes.

Sixty-three countries have BAC levels lower than .08. I encourage the Committee to explore lowering the BAC standard to .04 for both public and commercial and keeping zero tolerance of .02, and at the very least keeping .08 as the BAC standard.

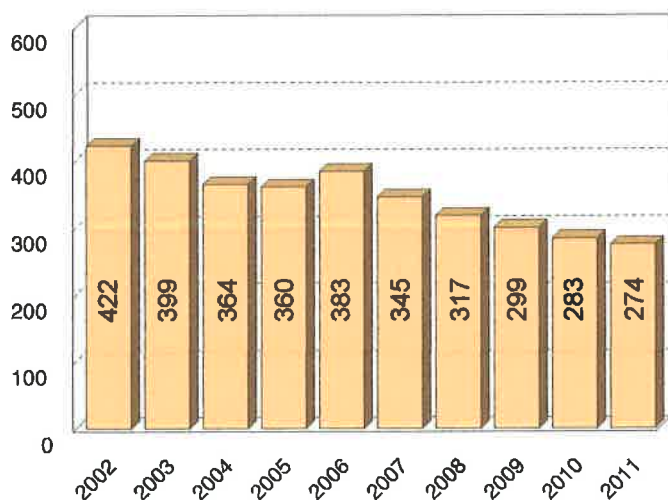
Thank you for your attention and I will be glad to try and answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Marie Hansen
Business Manager

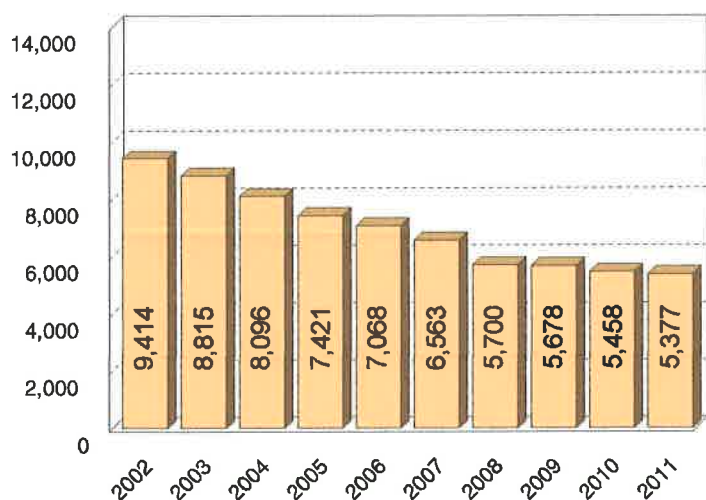
HAD-BEEN-DRINKING FATALITIES



10 YEAR TRENDS

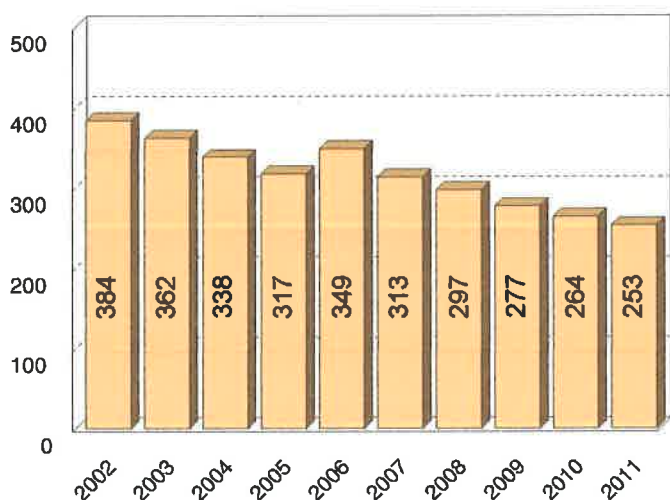
Deaths in alcohol-related crashes decreased 35.1 percent over the ten-year period.

HAD-BEEN-DRINKING INJURIES



Mirroring the trend in deaths, had-been-drinking injuries have decreased over the last ten years. In 2011, there were 5,377 injuries in crashes where the operator had been drinking, down 42.9 percent from 2002.

HAD-BEEN-DRINKING FATAL CRASHES



Alcohol involvement in fatal crashes has also decreased over the ten-year period. In 2011, there were 253 fatal crashes where the operator had been drinking, down 34.1 percent from 2002.

